



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KCK WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ID THEFT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Kan., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to stealing the identity of others in order to receive credit cards, loans and lines of credit.

Brenda K. Winston, 49, of Kansas City, waived her right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to a federal information, that charges her with identity theft.

By pleading guilty, **Winston** admitted that she used the identification of four other people between June 1, 2002, and Sept. 30, 2003. Specifically, **Winston** devised a scheme to obtain lines of credit and loans in the names of others and used the money for her own benefit. **Winston** obtained the credit by intercepting loan offers via U.S. Mail that were addressed to others. She then claimed to be those individuals to received several credit cards, lines of credit and loans without the knowledge of the individuals named on the accounts. The sum of money that **Winston** fraudulently received was \$52,004.97, Graves said.

Under federal law, **Winston** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

